

ARCHAIC GLEANINGS

A STUDY OF THE ARCHEOLOGY OF
NUCKOLLS COUNTY : NEBRASKA

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



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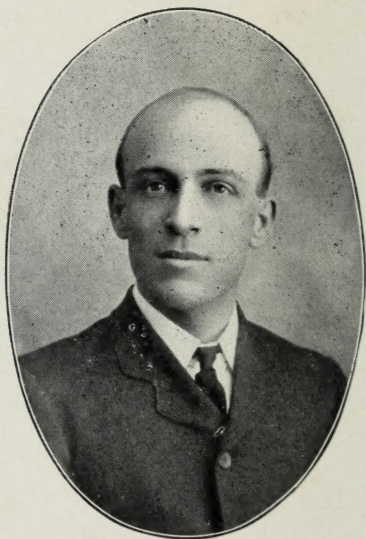


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BY · W · STRALEY

T.F.M.

Chas. B. Smith



W. STRALEY

Archaic Gleanings

A STUDY OF THE ARCHEOLOGY OF
NUCKOLLS COUNTY,
NEBRASKA



By W. STRALEY

EDITOR OF THE NUCKOLLS COUNTY
HERALD, NELSON, NEBRASKA



ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE AUTHOR



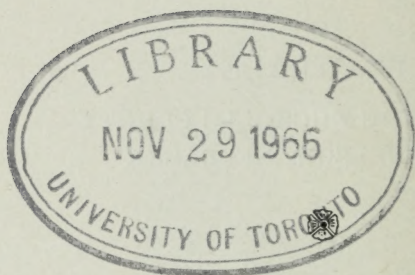
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I herewith extend my sincere thanks to the following named persons for their kindness and interest which made it possible to publish these few pages:

Messrs. C. R. Imler, F. O. Ritterbush, Bert Stoner, W. W. Hawley and Proctor Peebler, all of Nelson, Neb., for data and loan of specimens.

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Trusting this little volume may lead others to the study of the archeology of their home counties and neighborhoods is the wish of its inscriber—

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "H. A. H. H. H." or similar, with a stylized, cursive script.

NELSON, NEB., August 22, 1909.

INTRODUCTORY.

In the vast long ago when knighthood was in flower—when the adventurer clad in armour and with cutlass and bow left the shores of Spain to seek the riches of an unknown world he little thought of the outcome of his course and undertaking.

The first of these to set foot in Nebraska, according to James W. Savage,¹ was Don Coronado, while seeking for the seven cities of Cibola in the year 1541. We read of his being led into the land of Quivira by the stoical "Turk;" of their many days of suffering while crossing the hot and dusty prairies of Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas; and on their reach-

¹ "The Discovery of Nebraska," Vol. I, Transactions and Reports of the Nebraska State Historical Society, 1885, pp. 180-202.

ing the border-land of Quivira how they were told that the place sought for was farther on. According to this writer, Coronado traveled until he reached the Platte river, and there found the home of the Quiviras'. "Doubtless between Gage county on the east and Furnas on the west, Coronado set foot upon the soil of Nebraska, * * *"

If such be true, and after Coronado left the main body of his army to press farther on, this writer infers he "proceeded in a direction west to north," which we believe would have brought him to the Nebraska line about where our present county of Nuckolls now is—especially if he followed the Republican river—and I have read somewhere of his keeping up the north bank of some such stream.

* * * * *

In Vol. II (1887) of the Nebraska

State Historical Society publication will be found a communication from Judge Savage, entitled: "A Visit to Nebraska in 1662." This paper narrates the visit of one Don Diego, Count of Penalosa, a Creole, and a native of America, who was born at Lima, Peru, in the year 1624, and who held many official positions in his native country and Mexico. After landing in Mexico it appears he fell into the good graces of the Viceroy of that country, and was by him appointed Governor of New Mexico, with headquarters at Santa Fe. It was while in the discharge of his official duties at that place that he, like Coronado, learned of and craved to discover the great Quivira and secure the riches of gold, silver and precious stones in which the cities thereof were said to abound. The journey as described is based on the account of one De Freytas.

Mr. Savage's paper proves him to be a close student of the subject, and perhaps is right in his conclusions.

* * * * *

Something like 223 years after Coronado's visit St. Louis was established, and of course trappers and adventurers began to explore the wilds adjacent to the most important streams which flow eastward from the Rockies. In this way Nebraska was first discovered, according to the recent research into the history and archeology of the point now in question. It is said that Father Marquette knew of the land, and made the first map of the country.

Mr. Savage delivered his address before the Nebraska State Historical Society April 16, 1880. Since that time J. V. Brower,¹ F. W. Hodge,² A. F.

¹ "Kansas," Brower.

² "Kansas," Brower, pp. 81, 82.

Bandelier et al, have explored and investigated the supposed route of the Coronado expedition, and have located the northern most point of Quivira at a point below the Kansas river, at the conjunction of the Big Blue and Smoky Hill rivers. We are inclined to the views of these gentlemen.

The discoveries made by the above named gentlemen and their co-laborers along the line of archeology and anthropology, to my mind, bear out their promulgations.

The author of "Don Coronado Through Kansas; a Story of the Kansas, Osage and Pawnee Indians" places the locality of visitation of Coronado and party in the state of Nebraska in either Pawnee or Richardson county. He deducts his authority from the 14th Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, which contains the translations made by United

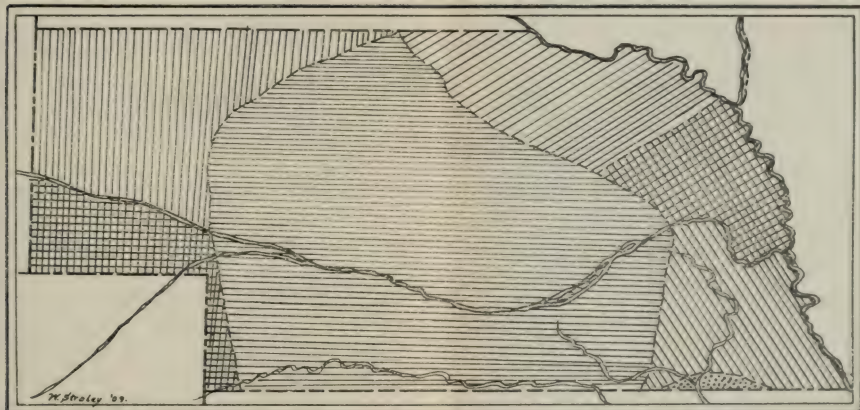
States government translators from the original journals of the Coronado party, now in the archives at Madrid, Spain

Father Marquette¹ enumerates and gives almost the exact position of the (Panas) Pawnees, (Mahas) Omahas, (Otontantes) Otoes, on his map drawn in 1673. No mention was made of the Quivira, who lived to the southward in what is now the center of Kansas.

The Quivira are supposedly the Wichita, while the Harahey² are classed as the Pawnee. The first named tribe occupied the southern central portion of Kansas, and adjacent territory to the south, while the latter ranged in the country north of the Kansas river and south of the Niobrara, and very near to

1 "The Discovery of Nebraska," *Savage. Transactions and Reports of the Nebraska State Historical Society*, Vol. I, p. 182.

2 "Harahey," *Bulletin 30. Bureau of American Ethnology*, p. 532.



LEGEND:

PAWNEE	ARAPAHO	SILOUX	PONKA	OMAHA	OTOE	KAW

TRIBE MAP OF NEBRASKA, 1823

AFTER MOONEY

The above map shows the territory in Nebraska occupied by the different tribes of Indians at the time of the coming of the whites some 85 or 90 years ago.

both the east and west boundary lines of the state of Nebraska.¹ In some instances we read of their occupying villages in the edge of that strip of country forming the north bank of the Platte.²

The foregoing is according to data left by the first white explorers during the early part of the nineteenth century. Not being privileged to see a copy of Marquette's map I am not in a position to give the earlier information.

Of course inroads were made by the Sioux and other tribes north and west of the Pawnee territory—some while following the chase, others on the war-path and to plunder and destroy. Many were the battles and slaughters enacted in this section of the state, long before the advent of the whites. Yet this sec-

1 See Plate I.

2 "Don Coronado Through Kansas." pp. 292, 293.

tion came in for its share of depredations in latter years.¹

Our purpose is this publication is not to discuss the correctness of idea or conviction of any author, but to give a description of the archeology of Nuckolls county, Nebraska, as viewed by us during the past year. Of course, so far, we have not given the time for as thorough investigation as the subject may demand. But have made a beginning—set in motion, as it were, a wave of enthusiasm and a desire among our friends to know some of the secrets which lay buried beneath the soil, and trust may lead others to investigate more thoroughly. We hope to continue our investigations as long as we reside among you. Of course we have to depend largely on the reports made to us

¹ "A Frontier Life: Sketches and Incidents of Homes in the West." Rev. Charles Wesley Wells (1902)

by our farmer friends and other citizens concerning the location of prehistoric village, camp and burial sites, and of the various stone, bone and clay implements, utensils and objects found therein.

Following herewith we will endeavor to describe the localities and implements which have come to our notice during the past year.

This section of the state, and the county of Nuckolls in particular, will be seen by reference to Plate I to have been the home and hunting grounds of the Pawnees at the time the whites began to explore the Plains country. We do not know just how long they had been occupying this territory; but should think for sometime.

Of course the tribes adjacent made hunting excursions into the country, which, we believe, accounts for imple-

ments other than Pawnee to be found here.

The one reason that confirms my belief that Quivira did not extend this far north is the absence of the crude chipped work in flint classed as Quivira, which was found so plentiful in the territory explored by the Quivira Historical Society in Kansas¹. Although I have been informed by Prof. E. E. Blackman that a party at Beatrice had found many of these implements, but in what quantities I do not know, and to what extent other types are found I am not aware. The writer has quite a number of the so-called Quivira implements which he found in Comanche county, Texas²—tomahawks, celts, scrapers, drills, hammer stones, spear- and arrowheads, be-

1 "Kansas." Brower.

2 "Paragraphs From a Collector's Note-book." W. Straley.

sides metates and mano stones—fashioned from various kinds of stone.

The points and blades found in this (Nuckolls) county are classed as Harahey, which I term Pawnee, are made of two kinds of flint—one is a brownish-yellow stone from the Republican valley¹ and the other is of a bluish color with beautiful markings or stripes and was secured at the Nehawka² quarries. There is no flint deposit, I am informed, within the bounds of the county, consequently all material had to be brought here—some, no doubt, was brought in the rough; yet we are led to believe that most of the implements were formed at or near the flint deposits. Perhaps the finished articles were trafficked (traded)

¹ See Appendix I.

² See Appendix I. Also E. E. Blackman, state archeologist's report. Proceedings and Collections Nebraska State Historical Society, Vol. xv (1907), p. 354.

for from some tribe or tribes occupying adjacent territory, where the desired material abounded.

The stone from which the axes, mauls, etc., are fashioned is of a granite-like stone. The arrow-shaft smoothers are fashioned from a coarse-grained sandstone, which was brought into the county.¹

¹ Mr. D. W. Smith says that this sandstone is found near Hebron.

FLINT IMPLEMENTS.

Under this head will be found the arrow- and spearheads, knives, scrapers, etc. Quite a number are found, but to no great extent. Most of those picked up are on some old village or camp site, although a few have been found on the prairies and along the ridges. In the cultivation of the fields the plow usually throws out the specimens which have lain buried by the accumulation of the decaying plants, etc., for we know not how long. Sometimes a heavy rain will uncover some long hid specimens, which are occasionally found.

ARROW- AND SPEARHEADS.

The arrow- and spearheads of this locality present specimens of excellent workmanship. The forms are all pleas-

ing in design, symmetrical and delicate—but mostly small in size. Some designs are similar to those found elsewhere, but I am inclined to believe there are many strictly representative of this section. Very few of the forms have barbs, but most specimens have notches—some are notched at the butt with a notch on either side, others have as many as four and six notches on the two sides. The notch may occur on the side, yet be missing from the butt; still another form has a concave butt and a notch on each side; other specimens have a slightly concaved butt, a notch on each side, with a serrated edge the entire length of the point. Many of the specimens are shaped similar to a long-sided triangle—some with slightly rounded corners, some square, and others somewhat concave. The latter may have been used as blades, and not as arrows

—as it is very difficult to tell just where an arrowhead ceases to be and where a knife begins to appear.¹ The accompanying plate (II) will give a fair idea of the various forms. Mr. Brower (See "Kansas," pl. xxiv) places these points in the Guas² culture, which he "traced from Arkansas and Southern Missouri to Harahey, thense up Blue River valley to Platte valley, The Loup, Missouri river and the association of Arikari (Guas descendants) with the Mandan villages in North Dakota."³

By referring to Plate II will be seen the different types and shapes found in the vicinity of Nelson and along Elk creek.

Mr. Paul Campbell presented the

1 "Prehistoric Relics," W. K. Moorehead, ch. vi, pp. 41-44, inclusive.

2 "Guas," Bulletin 30. Bureau of American Ethnology, p. 510.

3 "Kansas," Brower, pl. xxiv.

writer with specimen *a*. This point is of grey flint and was found one mile west of town.

Specimens *b*, *c*, *f* and *h* are made of the beautiful Nehawka flint (*b*, *c* and *h* are nicely banded), and were found by the writer on the old village site west of town.

Mr. H. H. Martin, of near Mt. Clare, found specimen *d* on Sec. 35-3-8, near the head of Elk creek. The material is the Republican valley brown flint.

The writer picked up *g* on the site one mile west of Nelson; it is of brown flint.

The little arrowhead illustrated on Plate V, figure i, is in Mr. Imler's collection. It is of greyish-blue flint, and is from the site west of town. Some writers claim that these triangular points were used as war-points, and in use were fastened lightly to the shaft so that when they were shot into a human



ARROW- AND SPEARHEADS

body and when the victim tried to pull the arrow out the point would easily detach from the shaft and remain in the wound.¹

Mr. Imler has the only obsidian arrowhead we have seen from this locality. It was found on Elk creek about one mile west of the city.

Specimens of these excellent arrow-points are to be found in the collections of the following parties: Imler, Hawley, Stoner, Ritterbush and the author. Campbell, McHenry, Haifer, Whitely et al, have also shown us specimens.

The spearhead (pl. II, fig. *e*) was found by Irvin Littrell on the Wilson place two miles west of Nelson, and was presented to the author by him. The black line near either end shows where the specimen was broken by being drop-

1 "Our Wild Indians." Col. Richard I. Dodge. p. 419.

ped on a cement pavement. It is made from a slate-like material.

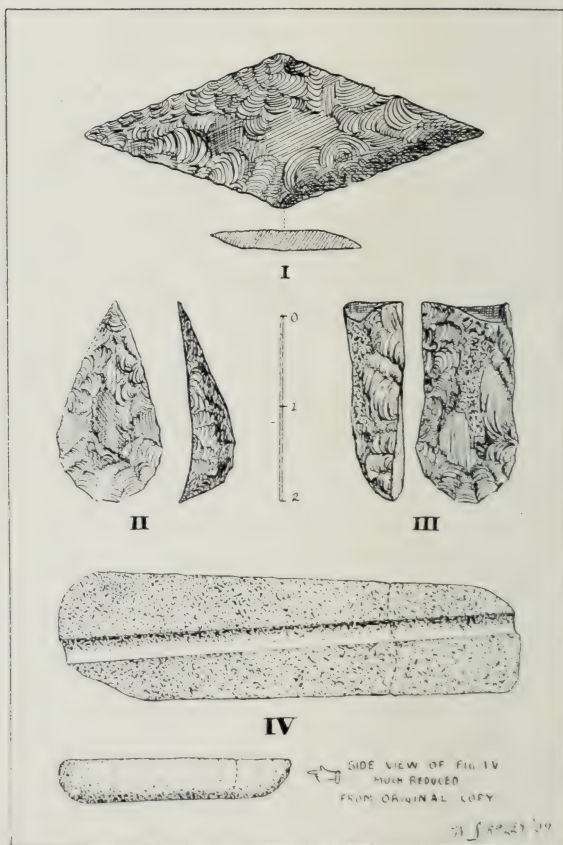
Mr. Imler has a couple of specimens similar to the above, but the material is of Republican valley yellow flint; also the workmanship of his specimens is much neater, and they have the rotary bevel. The spearheads appear to be scarce.

Miss Hattie Burd has a broken spear-point made of obsidian; was found one and a half miles east of Nelson.

KNIVES.

As previously stated, the determination of a knife is very difficult. Plate III, figure i, illustrates a style of knife which has four beveled or cutting edges.¹ This type of knife is figured by Mr. Brower on pages 47 and 71 of his

¹ "Excavation of Earth-Lodge in Eastern Nebraska." Robt. F. Gilbert, *American Anthropologist*, January-March, 1909, p. 69.



KNIFE, SCRAPERS, ARROW-SHAFT RUBBER

"Kansas." Mr. Ritterbush has a specimen of this shape of knife, although not quite so perfect a diamond as shown in the cut, yet it is a good copy. It is made of white chert. He also has one made of the Republican valley flint, which is not quite so wide. Mr. Stoner has a similar specimen.

Numerous spall knives are found in this vicinity.

Some of the larger flint blades are knives, no doubt, especially the triangular points, as they have a pretty fair cutting edge. We do not know for certain that this is correct, but merely suggest the idea.

Mr. D. W. Smith, who farms some nine miles north of Nelson on the Little Blue river, presented us with a large flint implement which he terms a knife. The specimen was found on his property.

FLINT CELTS.

Messrs. Imler and Ritterbush have specimens of implements which one would term flint celts. They are fashioned from the brown flint from the Republican valley, and in workmanship are crude. Most specimens found are broken. They vary in size and shape quite a great deal. So far have seen none with a ground edge. It is very difficult to distinguish between the flaked celts and some of the flaked agricultural implements.

Mr. T. C. Hodges, who lives one mile west of Nelson and owns the farm on which an old camp or village site is found, presented the writer with a small celt (measuring $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches wide and $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch thick) which in appearance is like all of those fashioned from the Republican valley flint.

SCRAPERS.¹

The "turtle-back" scraper appears to predominate, and are found in various sizes and of several different materials. Many of the specimens are nicely made and beautifully curved, with the cutting edge well wrought. Plate III, figures ii and iii, picture this type of scraper; the first is a complete curved specimen, while the other is the cutting end of a broken implement. Messrs. Hawley, Stoner, Ritterbush and Imler have good collections of these artifacts.

The oblong, round- and square-bladed scrapers are also found here.

FLINT SPADE OR HOE.

Figure iii, plate IV, gives the likeness of a well-formed flint spade or hoe²

¹ "Our Wild Indians," Col. Richard I. Dodge, p. 256.

² "Prehistoric Relics," W. K. Moorehead, pp. 16 to 20.

in the Ritterbush collection, which was found on his father's farm one mile south of the court house. It is made of the Republican valley brown flint, and measures $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches long and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide at the greatest breadth.

We have seen several similar specimens found here, but none were so well finished—very near all had been broken in the cultivation of the soil.

ARROW-SHAFT SMOOTHERS.

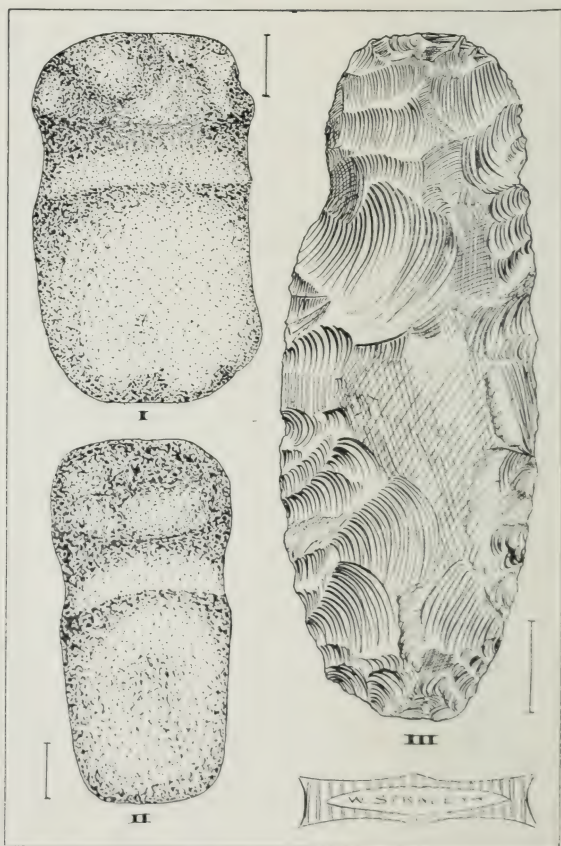
The arrow-shaft smoothers¹ illustrated on plate III, figure iv, was found a mile and a half east of Nelson, and is in the collection of Miss Burd. It is made from a peculiar kind of gritty sandstone,² in appearance like unto iron, and said to be found near Hebron or Fairbury. This specimen measures 5 inches long, 1½ inches wide and 1-inch thick. The under side is rounded off, and the groove made by the smoothing of the arrowshafts runs bias on the face of the stone. The specimen has been broken and cemented together.

Mr. Imler has a small specimen in his

1 "Handbook of American Indians," part I, p. 95.

2 E. E. Blackman, state archeologist's report, Proceedings and Collections Nebraska State Historical Society, Vol. xv (1907), pp. 350-352.

collection which measures $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, 2 inches wide and $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch thick, and is made of the same material. The under side is rounded similar to the Burd specimen. The groove is not very deep; in fact, the stone has quite a cavity worn in the face where some tool has been ground or sharpened. Hawley, Stoner, Ritterbush and myself also have broken specimens.



GROOVED MAULS AND SPADE (?)

GROOVED STONE MAULS.¹

Figure i, plate IV, shows the likeness of a grey granite maul found by Mr. Richard Kirk on his place, near where the Burlington and Rock Island railroads intersect each other on Elk creek, about a half mile southeast of the court house. It is $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide at greatest width, and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick at greatest thickness. The top and blade have pieces chipped out, supposedly from hard usage. The specimen now adorns the collection of Mr. F. O. Ritterbush.

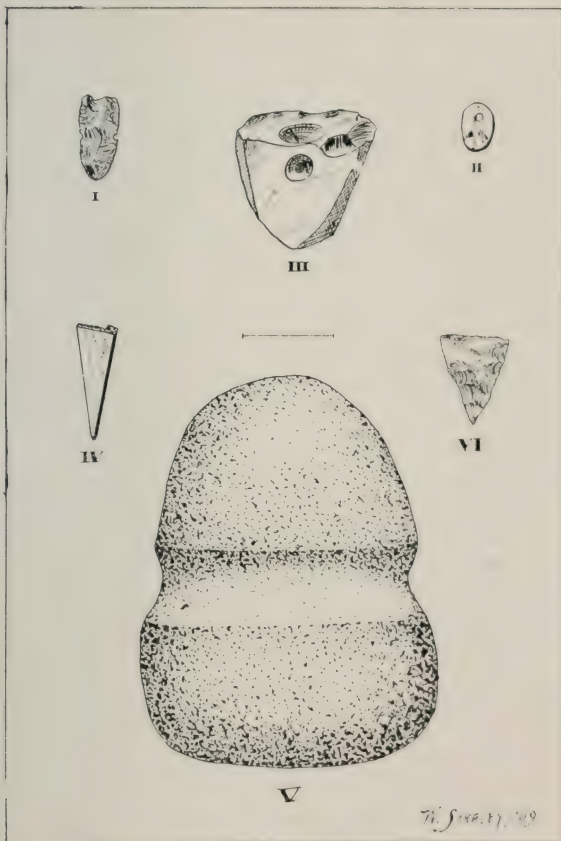
Figure ii of the same plate is a maul made from a dark green stone (nearly black) banded with white. The workmanship is very poor, and the imple-

1 "Handbook of American Indians," pt. I. pp. 528-529.

ment is badly battered from much hard usage. This specimen measures $5\frac{1}{4}$ long, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide at greatest width, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick at greatest thickness. Mr. Bert Stoner found this specimen near town when a boy, and used it for many years to drive stakes with when he staked the cows on the common for the night. In after years he hunted it up to add to his collection of curios, where it now occupies a prominent place.

The maul illustrated on plate V, figure v, is of granite, dirty in color, and measures 4 inches long and $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter. It was fashioned from a large pear-shaped, water-worn pebble.¹ The only labor expended on the implement was the cutting of the groove to haft it to a handle. The faces of either end show much usage. This specimen

1 "Prehistoric Relics," W. K. Moorehead, p. 50.



GROOVED MAUL, PIPE, ETC.

was found on the public school grounds by Mr. C R. Imler. He says he remembers seeing it as it lay around the play grounds some twenty years ago when he was a school boy, and after several years, while stoning a dog, he chanced to pick up this specimen, and instead of throwing it at the animal he took it home, where it became the nucleus of his present collection of Indian relics.

Mr. D. W. Smith, living on the Little Blue river, some nine miles north of town, has two stone mauls (grooved) while he found on his place. At this writing we have not been privileged to view them, therefor cannot give a description.

Several years ago workmen unearthed a stone maul on the bank of Elk creek in the eastern part of Nelson, which excavating dirt for making brick

at the Storer yard. No one knows what became of this relic.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The only bead that has come to our knowledge was found by Mr. Imler on the old village site west of Nelson (pl. V, fig. ii). It is made of bright green stone mottled with white, and has a well polished surface. It is $\frac{9}{16}$ of an inch long by $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch wide. The hole near one end was drilled with a flint point,¹ as the perforation was made from both sides, and is wider at the mouth than in the center—that is, it has the appearance of a counter-sunk hole for a screw-head.

Figure iii of the same plate is what purports to be a pipe.² The material

1 "A Study of the Primitive Methods of Drilling," J. D. McGuire.

2 "Prehistoric Relics," W. K. Moorehead; "Pipes and Smoking Customs of the American Aborigines," Joseph D. McGuire.

used is flesh-colored magnesia-limestone, very rough in outline, and has two funnel-shaped cavities—one from the top and the other from the side. These holes were drilled with a flint point as the walls of the cavities (especially the larger) plainly show the markings of the serrated edges of the drill points. It is a unique specimen, although it is not very handsome. It belongs to the collection of Mr. Imler, who found it on the site just west of town. This specimen and one found by Mr. D. W. Burd while working the road east of Nelson are the only two we know of being found in the county. This type of pipe is termed "double conoidal"¹ from the shape of the perforations.

Figure iv of the same plate is a frag-

¹ "Pipes and Smoking Customs of the American Aborigines," Joseph D. McGuire, pp. 528-532; "A Study of the Primitive Methods of Drilling," J. D. McGuire.

ment of a bone awl,¹ highly polished, and was found by Mr. Imler on the same site where he found the pipe mentioned in the preceding paragraph. This is the only bone implement found within the bounds of the county that has come to my knowledge so far.

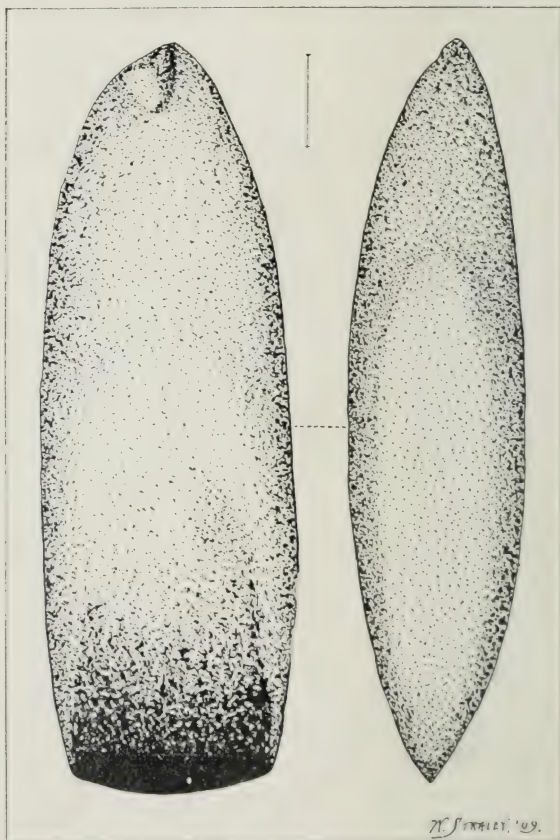
Mr. Edward Portwood, of Nelson, some years ago, while plowing on his father's farm in the northern portion of the county, unearthed a snake-skin filled with ochre.

Mr. Proctor Peebler has in his possession a stone celt² with a polished blade, which measures 8 inches long, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$

1 "Excavation of Earth-Lodge in Eastern Nebraska," Robt. F. Gilbert, *American Anthropologist*, January-March, 1909, pp. 71, 73; "Prehistoric Relics," W. K. Moorehead, pp. 94-96; "Digging Into the Home-life of Nebraska Ancients," R. F. Gilder, paper iii; "Handbook of American Indians," pt. I, p. 120.

2 "Handbook of American Indians," pt. I, pp. 225-226; "Excavation of Earth-Lodge Ruins in Eastern Nebraska," Robt. F. Gilbert, *American Anthropologist*, January-March, 1909, p. 69; "Digging Into the Home-life of Nebraska Ancients," R. F. Gilder, paper vii.

inches wide and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick, and is fashioned from a dark brown granite-like stone. The stone was pecked into the desired shape and then the blade was ground to a smooth (polished) cutting edge, similar to a chisel. Mr. Peebler found this relic while plowing about one mile east of Nelson. Plate VI illustrates the specimen from two view points. It is the only one of this type found here that we have had our attention directed to.



POLISHED CELT.

POTTERY.

Potsherds are found at many places throughout this section. An examination of specimens from the various sites lead us to the same conclusion arrived at by Mr. R. F. Gilder: "Analyzation of the potsherds shows the ware to be about 75 to 80 per cent clay,"¹ and where he found a tempering of granite we find that quartzite was used instead, and in some instances pulverized shell,² either of which make a good tempering agent.

The 20th Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology figures and de-

1 "Digging Into the Home-life of Nebraska Ancients," R. F. Gilder, paper xi.

2 "Ancient Works on the Muskingum," David I. Bushnell, Jr., *American Anthropologist*, April-June, 1908, p. 344.

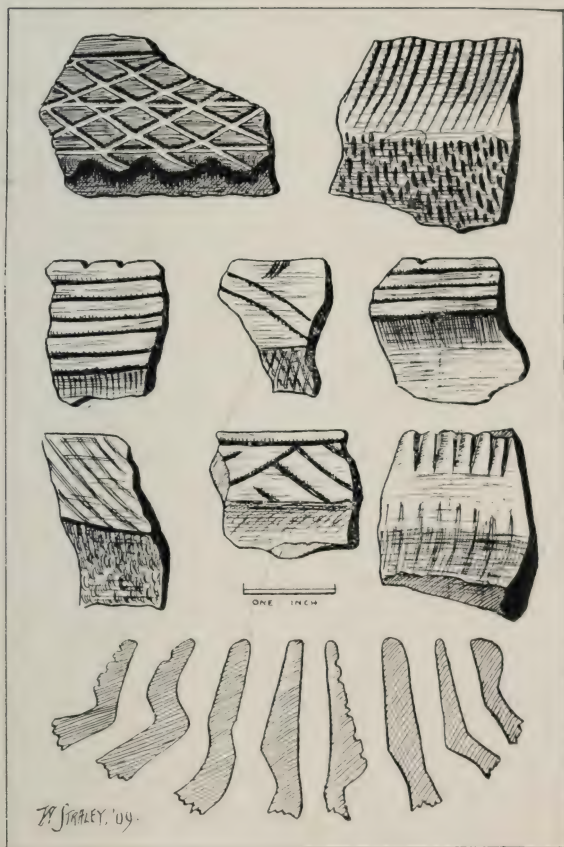
scribes on pages 199 to 201 the Pawnee and Mandan pottery similar to specimens found here.

No entire vessels have been found, as, no doubt, what few pieces were left have been broken in the cultivation of the land. The specimens found measure from a few inches square down to the size of a penny.

Some vessels were smooth ware, and some indented, or what some writers term basket or corded ware, as the entire surface is plainly marked with indentations similar to the inside of a slab of bark, or having the appearance of being beaten with a fibre-covered paddle¹ while the vessel was green.

The shape varied greatly, as did also the size.

1 "Aboriginal Pottery of Eastern United States." W. H. Holmes, 20th Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology. pp. 73-75.



Most specimens are decorated; yet a few sherds found show that a great many were not. The rim pieces which have found resting places in the cabinets of local collectors show many beautiful and artistic patterns¹—among which will be found pie-crust crimping (made with the thumb and index finger as our mothers used to crimp the pie-crust before baking), incised lines and fluting. Plate VII gives a few specimens of rim decorations—the bottom row of figures show the different rim pieces sectionally. The decoration of Nuckolls county

1 "The Indian Remains of Canadian River Valley," The Student. Vol. III, Canadian (Texas) Academy; "The Archeology of Brant County, Ontario," J. Leonard Strong, A. S. of C. C. Bulletin. Spring 1907, p. 35; "Prehistoric Village Site, Ross County, Ohio," Wm. C. Mills, Records of the Past, October 1906, p. 308; "Relics of the Past in Southern Minnesota," Anthon T. Gerner, Records of the Past, September-October 1908, pp. 240-243; "Archeological Investigations in James and Potomac Valleys," Gerard Fowke; "The Problem of the Ohio Mounds," Cyrus Thomas, pp. 23-24. 26-27.

pottery is similar to that found in other sections.

Mr. C. D. Green last winter unearthed some large specimens of potsherds, similar to that found here, in Frontier county. We have a few pieces in our collection, which he kindly sent us.¹

The following named works and papers refer to the pottery supposed to be Pawnee, and similar to that of this locality:

"Kansas," J. V. Brower, pl. xxii and p. 67.

"Rare Relic of Primitive Man," S. P. Hughes, Nemaha County Republican, December 11, 1908.

"American Family Robinson," D. W. Belisle, p. 355.

"History of the State of Nebraska,"

¹ "Department Indian Relics and Shells," The Philatelic West, Vol. 44, No. 3, June 1909.

Western Historical Company, pp. 373, 447, 448, 449.

"A Visit to Nebraska in 1662," Jas. W. Savage, Transactions Nebraska State Historical Society, Vol. II, pp. 127-128.

"Forty Years Among the Indians and On the Eastern Border of Nebraska," Rev. Samuel Allis, Transactions of the Nebraska State Historical Society, Vol. XV, pp. 341-343.

"Excavation of Earth-Lodge Ruins in Eastern Nebraska," Robert F. Gilder, American Anthropologist, January-March 1909, pp. 70-71.

SKELETAL.

The only instances of the finding of skeletal remains which have come to our notice are as follows:

We understand that a few bones were unearthed by workmen while grading the public road about a mile and a half east of town. Do not know just what the find consisted of.

Mr. D. W. Smith, who farms on the Little Blue some 9 miles north of Nelson, says that a few years ago while plowing in a swag on the river bank the plow cut diagonally through the leg bones of a skeleton which was lying on its side in a gully. The skeleton was completely covered with earth. The bones went to pieces when they came in contact with the air, but believes that

the teeth are somewhere about his residence. He says he does not think that the skeleton was that of an Indian, but of some hunter or soldier, who had been wounded and then crawled into the ditch and died.

The following extracts taken from a letter from Mr. B. J. Richards of Angus, this county, will better explain the other find than I possibly could do myself:

“I was much pleased to receive your letter of inquiry concerning the relics we have picked up.

“I will first enumerate what we have found: A cranium, the frontal molar superior maxmillary bones being missing; probably a dozen spearheads or heavy arrowheads; one piece of stone hatchet; one stirrup; one spur; one picket pin; numerous pieces of glass, crockery and buffalo teeth, which we did not see fit to gather.

“The remains of the skull were plowed out in a field of listed corn on the side of a hill. At first I took this to be the grave of an Indian, but concluded upon examination that it was that of a soldier, as the brass eyelets and fragments of an army poncho were in evidence.

“We also found three graves on a knoll, but concluded that these were the graves of whites, so did not touch them.

“I have been unable to discover an Indian burial ground, although the Indians evidently had a camp near here—where we discovered the arrowheads.

“The fragments of glass and crockery are supposed to be the remains of merchandise wagons destroyed by the Indians.

“Numerous bullets and buttons have been found on the site of the Comstock massacre in which, as I am informed, nine white people were killed. These, I

have been told, were afterward removed to the knoll of which I spoke. Rev. Wells, now of Ong, Nebraska, was in this vicinity in 1866 and, I understand, wrote a book¹ on the early history of this locality."

1 "A Frontier Life; Sketches and Incidents of Homes in the West," Rev. Charles Wesley Wells. \$1.00.

APPENDIX I.

LINCOLN, NEBR., July 20, 1909.

Mr. W. Straley,
Nelson, Nebr.

Dear Sir:

Your letter and box of specimens duly received. The brown specimen is from the Republican valley. I have explored this stratum at Bloomington and at Republican City. In both cases I find it rests between a bed of blue shale below and a cap of quartzite above. These two deposits are separated by about 20 feet of loess soil, and about midway is found a thin stratum of buff colored limestone carrying thin layers of this brown chert. A few of the strata are so thin and of superior quality that implements may be made of it with very

little labor. This brown chert has eroded out of the limerock in many cases, and now lies on the surface of the ground half-way up the slope of the Republican river.

The geological people here are inclined to call these strata nodules, but I am not so certain that a nodule could be in just this form, and their theory may have to be modified to meet the conditions found in this Republican deposit.

The territory along the Republican river was held by the Pawnee Indians, and I am satisfied it was held because of this flint deposit which was so easily worked and of such superior quality. Many tons of this material will be found scattered along the Platte and Elk Horn rivers, and even as far up the Loup river as St. Paul, Nebraska. When the Pawnees obtained steel arrow points and the flint became useless to them the Repuli-

can band of Pawnees joined the main body on the Platte river. This fact in connection with the great quantity of this material found in the old Pawnee habitat convinces me that the immense flint deposit along the Republican river was one of the factors which gave the Pawnees their supremacy in an early day.

It is interesting in this connection to note that the cache of 100 of the finest specimens of chipped flint, ever found in America, was unearthed in Tennessee some years ago. These specimens were undoubtedly of this same material. I shall hope to make a careful chart of the area occupied by this brown chert, and explore more carefully the evidences of a mine found in that locality.

The other specimen, of blue chert, (a very fine scraper) came from Nehawka.

This banded material is most abundant in the mine situated $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Nehawka on the highest point in the surrounding country.

This is premo-carboniferous flint. It is found only in nodules nearly round varying in size from one inch in diameter to 10 inches in diameter. The specimens found a little lower down near the town of Nehawka are to be distinguished by a number of peculiar fossils found in the stratum. Premo-carboniferous limestone is found in wells throughout western Iowa. It come to the surface in the Missouri bluffs south of Council Bluffs, thence in a south-westerly direction along the Weeping Water, and the Blue has its bed for many miles upon this carboniferous limestone, carrying nodules of flint. The Blue river flint is of a good quality, dark blue in color, but carries few fossils. As you go south to

the Kansas river near Manhattan and south of the Kansas river as far as I have explored (about 20 miles) the flint deposit grows lighter in color and poorer in quality.

It is not fully determined what tribe held these flint quarries in aboriginal days. It is quite evident that the Pawnees obtained their supply of blue chert by traffic; the work at the Nehawka mine seems too old for Omaha work, and the absence of abundant chips on their old village sites seem to argue that if the Omaha's worked these flint mines it was at a much earlier date, when they dwelt on the Iowa side of the Missouri river. We shall hope in time to definitely determine who worked the Nehawka flint quarries and when.

I am certainly pleased to hear that you are about to publish another book on archeology. I have intended to answer



THE NEW AND THE OLD

Excavating prehistoric sites in South Omaha. Modern houses built over the ruins of the ancient. More than 1000 well made bone and stone implements were taken from the ruins shown in the photograph.

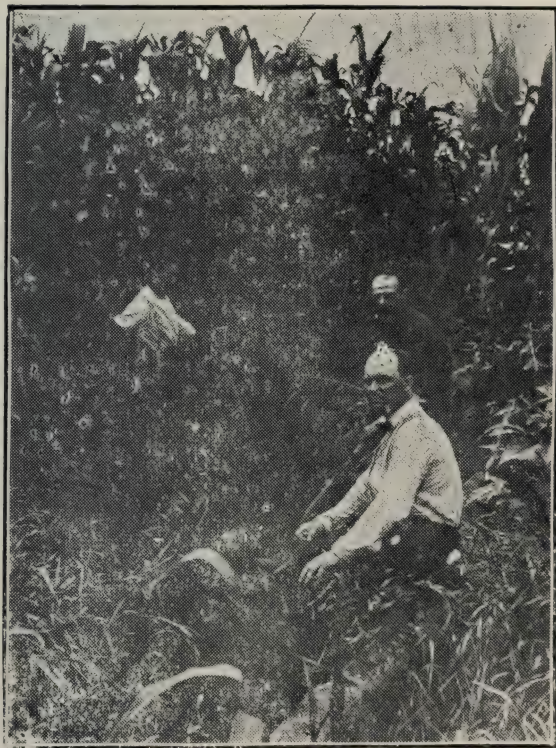
some of your questions which you asked in the Herald some weeks ago, but so far have not had time to take up the matter systematicly. You are certainly doing excellent work, which will bring your local archeology into public prominence. The only way to solve the archeological problems of Nebraska is through local workers in their respective localities.

Yours very truly,

E. E. BLACKMAN,
Archeologist, Nebraska State Historical
Society.

APPENDIX II.

We herewith present two views which illustrate the fact that ancient village sites may be found in the most unsuspected places. Plate VIII is a view taken in South Omaha. Plate IX was taken in a corn field in Sarpy county. Therefore it behooves those interested in the archeology of their immediate locality to ever keep a sharp look-out for these sites, whether you live in the rural district, in the village or in the city it matters not. I usually find indications of Indian occupation near some live stream or spring; and have been informed that there is not such a stream or spring in the state but what will show some such occupation.



EXCAVATING SITE IN CORNFIELD.
SARPY COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

APPENDIX III.

ERRATA.

The title in the footnote on page 18 should read: "Excavation of Earth-Lodge Ruins in Eastern Nebraska."

The word "inches" is omitted between " $5\frac{1}{4}$ " and "long" in the second line on page 26.

In the fifteenth line on page 26 the word "diameter" should read "circumference."

The word "while" in the fourteenth line on page 27 should have been "which "

The first word, "which," in the last line on page 27 should read "while."

The first title in footnote 1 on page 31 should read "Excavation of Earth-Lodge Ruins in Eastern Nebraska."

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Straley, W.
Archaic gleanings; a
study of the archaeology
of Nuckolls County,
Nebraska.

Nelson, Neb.,
The Herald Printery
(1909)

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